

## CHAPTER 8

What do the following pairs of words mean?

nouns	verbs
pugn-a	pugn-ō
vōx, vōc-is	voc-ō
rēx, rēg-is	reg-ō
laus, laud-is	laud-ō
dux, duc-is	dūc-ō
labor, labōr-is	labōr-ō

### The ransom of Hector

Without translating, answer the questions below

- diū māter filium mortuum lūget; diū lūget Andromachē uxor Hectoris; diū lūget Priamus. tandem, ubi nox venit, Priamus ex urbe exit et sōlus ad Graecōrum nāvēs prōcēdit. deus Mercurius eum dūcit per vigilēs Graecōrum. tandem ad Achillis
- 5 tabernāculum advenit; intrat et Achillem salūtat; ad terram prōcumbit et 'ō Achillēs, tē ōrō,' inquit; 'tandem ab irā dēsiste et filium mortuum ad mātrem miseram remitte.'

- Achillēs, ubi Priamum videt, attonitus est. misericordiā commōtus est; Priamum ē terrā tollit. filium mortuum reddit et
- 10 patrem ad urbem Trōiam incolumem remittit.

**lūget** mourns; **uxor** wife  
**nox** night  
**Graecōrum** of the Greeks; **deus** god  
**vigilēs** watchmen, guards  
**Achillis tabernāculum** Achilles' tent  
**prōcumbit** he bows down  
**ōrō** I beg  
**misericordiā** by pity  
**commōtus est** he is moved  
**tollit** raises, lifts up

- 1 What does Priam do, when night comes? [3]
- 2 How does he find his way through the Greek guards? [2]
- 3 What does he do when he enters Achilles' tent? [4]
- 4 How does Achilles react to Priam's words? [2]
- 5 Does Achilles' behavior here change our view of his character? [5]

## THE ILIAD – 2

In this chapter, we have briefly told the end of the story of the *Iliad*. We described how Achilles, although he has now taken revenge on Hector for killing his friend Patroclus, nevertheless pushes his hatred beyond his enemy's death. He drags Hector's corpse around Patroclus' tomb again and again in his wild anger and grief.

It was considered a terrible thing in the Greek world to leave a man unburied, since it meant that his spirit could not find rest in the next life. Most of the gods disapprove of Achilles' treatment of Hector's corpse, and Apollo protects it, making sure that it does not become damaged in any way.

Jupiter now decides that Achilles must give Hector's body back to his father Priam. He sends Iris, goddess of the rainbow, to tell Priam to go to the Greek camp at night and to ask Achilles to grant him his request. He also sends Thetis, the mother of

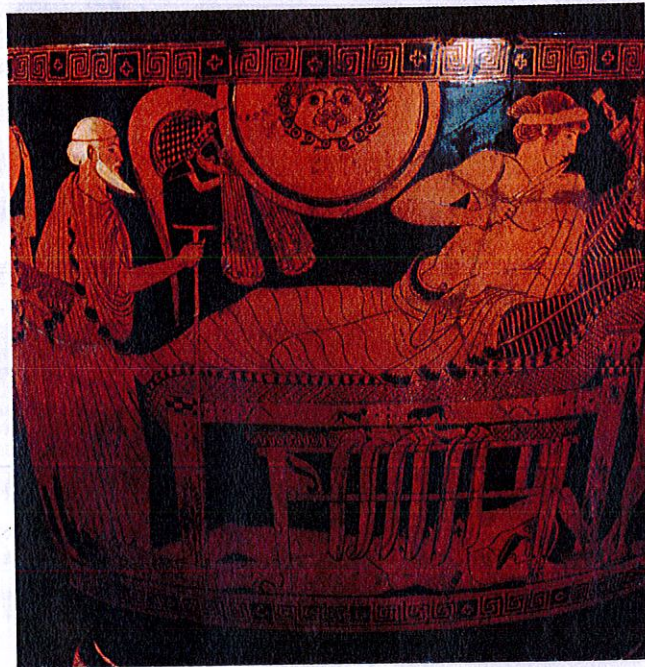


Achilles, to see her son and to make sure that he does what he's told.

Priam loads a wagon with a fabulous ransom and sets off for the Greek camp with a single charioteer. As they approach the enemy lines, the god Mercury meets them in disguise and leads them to Achilles' hut. Miraculously they are unnoticed by any of the Greeks. Achilles gazes in amazement as the old man enters, kneels before him and takes hold of the fatal hands which have killed so many of his children.

Priam begs him to accept the ransom and return Hector's corpse, making him imagine the feelings of an old father who has lost his son. The two men, one so young and the other so very old, weep together. Priam remembers Hector and Achilles thinks of his own father Peleus at home in Greece, destined never to see his son again. For Achilles had been given the choice between a short life with immortal fame and a long but obscure existence. He had chosen the former.

As the two enemies weep, the anger of Achilles disappears and he agrees to Priam's request. They eat together and later that night Priam leaves the Greek camp, again under the protection of Mercury. He returns to the city with his son's body on the wagon which had carried the ransom on the way out. The Trojans will be given the opportunity to pay full funeral rites to Hector back at Troy, during a truce guaranteed by Achilles.



The ransom of Hector

Two dreadful events hang over the end of the *Iliad*. One of them is the death of Achilles. He will be mortally wounded by an arrow in his heel, the only part of his body where a weapon can penetrate. The other is the fall of Troy which cannot be avoided now that Hector is dead. So Achilles and Priam will soon join Patroclus and Hector and the countless other victims of the Trojan War in the Underworld.

*Explain the causes of Achilles' anger against first the Greeks and then the Trojans.*

*How do the events described above bring the *Iliad* to a satisfactory conclusion?*